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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

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INFORMATION REPORT

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COUNTRY Czechoslovakia

DATE DISTR. 13 August 1951

SUBJECT Effects on Czech Industry of East-West
Trade Restrictions

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1. The following trends indicate the extent to which Czech industry is suffering from recent East-West trade restrictions. The Czech government's frantic efforts to procure non-ferrous metals through smuggling and illegal barter deals reflect the failure thus far of trade trusts to procure these items in sufficient quantities to satisfy the requirements of the Czech light industry. Czech maneuvers in trade negotiations with western European countries confirm the fact that both the light and heavy industries are hard hit. In recent discussions with Austrian representatives the Czech negotiators have tried to make immediate delivery of certain quantities of steel, pig iron and ball bearings the sine qua non of the trade agreement. The Czechs are utilizing every economic weapon they can muster to force concessions from other countries. The threats of non-delivery of vital coal and sugar to Austria is an example. Foreign negotiators believed that Czechoslovakia's reiterated assurances of her desire to continue and expand trade with the West betrays a grave apprehension concerning the consequences of possible further tightening of the trade embargo.

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